

Special Meeting of the
Board of TFD Fire Commissioners
DRAFT -- Meeting Minutes – April 27, 2015
Thompsonville Fire Station, 11 Pearl Street

1. Call To Order: by Sec/Treasurer Commissioner Gaskell at 7:08 pm.

2. Roll Call: present was Chairperson Comm. Reidy, Comm. Stone., Comm. Magistri, Comm. Gaskell. Comm. Gillespie was not present. Also present was Kellie Wawer and Chief Alaimo. Atty. Carl Landolina joined at 7:30 pm; Assistant Chief Bill Provencher shortly after.

3. Discussion and Approval of Invoices/Bills

The commissioners reviewed, discussed and approved checks written

4. Commissioners Workshop: a) Discussion of 2014-2015 Fiscal Year Budget. b) Discussion of 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Budget. c) Fire Marshall Ordinances. d) Pension. e) Old Fire Station. f) New Fire Station.

MOTION made to move a) and b) to below f) made by Comm. Stone. Seconded by Comm. Reidy. Discussion: Decision made to accommodate Atty. Landolina's attendance during meeting.
Roll Call, **motion passes 4-0.**

Comm. Stone addressed Atty. Landolina stating that the Commissioners have discussed to going for voting at the annual meeting instead of all day voting on the budget. He was wondering about the time frame to get this noticed.

Landolina: After your April 30th meeting in which you present the budget to the public, you should plan a meeting on the day following to discuss comments made and possibly make any corrections to the budget. The April 30th meeting is a special meeting of the Board of Commissioners; you do not need a moderator, the Chair would run the meeting.

You will then need to publish the budget in the paper. You need to publish the candidates running for Commissioner 15 days prior to the annual meeting. You then need to publish a notice of the annual meeting at least 10 days prior to the meeting. You can combine the notice of the annual meeting in the same notice for commissioner. If you don't then you will need two separate notices.

Comm. Stone told Atty. Landolina that they will need to make a funds transfer and asked if this had to be presented at the annual meeting or if it could be after.

Landolina said it could be after the annual meeting because your fiscal year does not end until June 30th.

Discussion was held regarding the possibly of transferring funds between line items and what would need a public vote and what line items would not.

It was brought up that the Town of Enfield would need our mill rate by the 28th of May to be included in the tax notices. If the proposed mill rate does not pass on the 21st of May, there is no time with the required legal notices to schedule another Budget vote before the Town's cutoff date of the 28th. The Board would need to submit a mill rate, and then schedule meetings for a vote on a revised budget. If the vote passes a budget that is greater than what was put on the tax bill, you will need to somehow go out and print up supplemental bills. Assistant Chief Bill Provencher said he received information from the Town that this would be very costly to the District from doing the mailings to putting liens on property for unpaid taxes. Atty. Landolina said to avoid this entire process; we would need to back this up by about 30 days next year. May 21st is way too late for a budget vote; you could have your annual meeting way back in April and have a vote on the budget then. This way if the budget does not pass, you would have at least two more cycles.

Comm. Magistri asked Atty. Landolina what if the vote passes a budget that is less than what was put on the tax bill. Landolina replied that you would need to give everyone a refund check. You should also talk to your auditor on this situation.

Atty. Landolina Assistant Chief Bill Provencher asked if absentee ballots could be used for this year's voting. Atty. Landolina said there is no process for absentee ballots this year. Absentee ballots are for machine vote only.

Atty. Landolina will get back to the Commissioners and give a definite answer to if the budget does not pass before this May 28 deadline, the Board can vote on a mill rate to submit or do they need to revert to last year's mill rate.

Comm. Reidy mentioned there has been a lot of negative communication on Face book, including negative comments on the proposed budget coming from Commissioner Gillespie. Atty. Landolina will look into sending a cease and desist letter to Mr. Gillespie.

a) Discussion of 2014-2015 Fiscal Year Budget. b) Discussion of 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Budget.

The Commissioners reviewed and discussed the 2014-2015 budget. This resumed the meeting of last Saturday (April 25). An ex-cel worksheet showing all expenditures as of April 15 pulled from the Ledger, and estimates through August 15th were prepared.

This discussion carried to what would be needed and what should be funded for the 2015-2016 Budget

d) Pension

Comm. Gaskell reported that \$18,928.75 from Prudential, unpaid business charges should be added to what had to be paid before August 15. This was current as of April 9.

c) Fire Marshall Ordinances.

Nothing discussed this evening

5. Discussion and possible action of Year End Transfers.

This was briefly discussed earlier with Atty. Landolina.

6. Adjourn.

MOTION to adjourn. Made by Comm. Reidy, seconded by Comm. Stone. All in favor by ayes. Adjourned at 9:38pm